

EXIT THE room

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erasmus+

YOUNG ARTISTS & YOUNG AUDIENCE
EXPLORING NEW WAYS OF CREATING THEATRE
AND ART EXCHANGE

Call for Participants Season 26/27

We are inviting people with artistic interest, aspiring artists and performing arts pedagogues to the European exchange project **EXIT THE ROOM**.

- Age: 18 – 25 years
- Project period:
 1. **Participants Residency: TaO! Theater am Ortweinplatz (AT) Stella.Darstellender Kunst Preis, Assitej Austria**
November 15th - 22nd 2026, incl. travel days
 2. **Participants Residency: Starke Stücke-Festival | Frankfurt a. M. (DE) |**
February 25th - March 4th 2027, incl. travel days
 3. **Participants Residency: BRONKS, Brussels | Volt FESTIVAL, Ghent (BE)**
April 11th 2027 - April 18th 2027, incl. travel days
- Deadline for applications: July 20th 2026
- More Info: <https://exit-the-room.eu/>

What is EXIT THE ROOM?

From 2021 to 2027, EXIT THE ROOM – funded by the EU’s ERASMUS+ programme – facilitates European exchange between young adults with artistic interest. The aim is to turn the next generation into creators of their own programmes and to encourage new forms of art discourse and mediation.

All network partners – festivals and theatres – **work for a young audience** and are interested in creating a platform for aspiring artists, where they can exchange, grow and explore the field of performing arts for young audiences.

EXIT THE ROOM has finished three project cycles, with a new group of participants every year. Many participants stay active and connected to each other, to the project partners and to the other project groups.

THE NETWORK:

AGORA Theater, St. Vith, Belgium

Bravo! Festival, Helsinki metropolitan area, Finland

BRONKS, Brussels, Belgium

Junges Theater Bremen, Bremen, Germany

KLIKER Festival, Zagreb & Varaždin, Croatia

VRUM Performing Arts Collective, Vienna, Austria

spleen*graz Festival, Graz, Austria

Stadttheater Spandau, Berlin, Germany

„Starke Stücke“-Festival, Frankfurt and Rhine-Main region, Germany

TaO! – Theater am Ortweinplatz, Graz, Austria (accredited institution and head organisation)

Westwind Festival, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

Segni d’infanzia, Mantua, Italy



Residency programs include:

- networking with fellow participants
- expert discussions and networking meetings with the EXIT THE ROOM partners
- visiting performances for a young audience and exchanging with the artistic team
- accreditation to the festivals “Starke Stücke” and “Volt”
- developing new forms of dialogue, reflection and encounter between young people accompanying performances
- a chance to present performative try-outs at Volt Festival 2027
- professional coaching by artists from the EXIT THE ROOM partners

Work Focus for Project Cycle 26/27

The general focus of EXIT THE ROOM is experimenting with artistic approaches to encounters between young audiences and performing arts professionals. The goal is to visit different festivals, get an impression on their specific structures and processes and to engage in a dialogue about **performing arts for young audiences**.

During the three mobilities, participants will not only visit shows and get to know the festival makers and artists. They will also get the possibility to work on their own artistic approaches.

The special focus this season is: *Can there be a “we” without a boundary?*

This question exposes a fundamental paradox: a community presupposes a “we.” Yet as soon as a “we” is formed, a “not-we” implicitly emerges. Must every sense of belonging inevitably produce a boundary, or can a community exist without defining itself against those outside?

We will explore artistic forms and settings such as performances as well as interventions / installations in tension with this topic and in the semi-public spaces.

Coaches:

Austria:	Azlea Wriessnig
Germany:	Nele Hoffmann
Belgium:	Pascal Buyse
Croatia:	Marija Androidić

Terms:

- Through ERASMUS+ funding, EXIT THE ROOM pays for travel and accommodation costs (board and lodging on project days, entry to all scheduled events) of approx. € 3,000 per person
- Participants will stay in shared rooms of max. 3 people per room
- With your application, you commit to being available for the whole project period and take part in the project programme of all three residencies
- Participants are selected by the organising network partners
- no fees have to be paid or will be paid for participating in the project
- You need to have a travel health insurance for the countries of the residencies. Insurance must be organized by the participants.

Number of Participants: approx. 24 people



Cities & Hosts

Brussels, Belgium
www.bronks.be



BRONKS is a production company, a venue, and an experimental space for performing arts for young audiences. In our Brussels home, seasoned and emerging makers create trailblazing theatre. Children and young people learn to act, create, and watch. Schools, families, theatre professionals, and audiences – both young and not-so-young – feel welcome here.

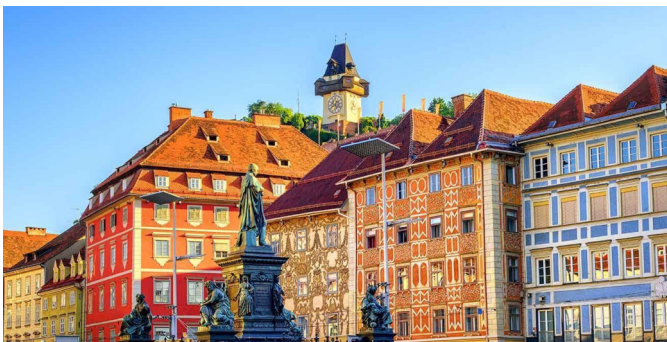
Volt FESTIVAL is a unique nomadic performing arts festival by the theatre houses hetpaleis (Antwerp), BRONKS (Brussels), and KOPERGIETERY (Ghent), where young people take on every role: performer, creator, reporter, curator, and audience member. The programme consists entirely of performances that they have made, performed, and selected themselves. Full of theatre, full of talent.

Frankfurt, Germany
www.starke-stuecke.net



„Starke Stücke“ is an international network festival for young audiences of all ages. It takes place in the Rhine-Main-Region in around 40 different venues. The locations range from big theatre stages to schoolyards, community centres or libraries. In the beginning of 2027, the festival will host its 33rd edition and invites national and international companies and guests to explore the region and to engage in different theatre experiences.

Graz, Austria
www.tao-graz.at
www.mezzanintheater.at
www.spleen-graz.at



TAO! Theatre at Ortweinplatz in Graz is a leading theatre for young audiences and a centre for young art. Founded in 1992, it presents contemporary productions, theatre education programs, workshops, and creative projects that engage children, teenagers, and young artists. The STELLA Performing Arts Award, organized by ASSITEJ Austria, is the national Austrian award for outstanding theatre and performing arts for young audiences, recognizing artistic excellence and innovation since 2007.

PARTICIPANTS

You are

- between 18 and 25 years old
- a young artist, (student, recent graduate) interested in one of the following areas:
 - Performing or Visual Arts, Theatre
 - Dance
 - Music Pedagogy, or similar
- open-minded and interested in exchange with other artists
- from Austria, the Rhine-Main region, North Rhine-Westphalia, Belgium or Croatia

You are interested in

- performing arts for young audiences
- travel and international exchange
- new artistic inputs
- developing artistic output with others

Barriers

We seek to make the programme accessible for applicants with disabilities. If you have any questions regarding your possible participation (such as mobility barriers, hearing or seeing barriers etc.), please contact the people listed on the following page.

The programme will be held in English language. The performances within the respective festivals might be performed in different languages.

TIMELINE

- [Application Deadline](#) | July 20th 2026
- [Participant Selection Announcement](#) | September 10th 2026
- [Participants Residency: TaO!](#) | 15th - 22nd November 2026
- [Participants Residency: Starke Stücke-Festival](#) | February 25th - March 4th 2027
- [Participants Residency: Bronks](#) | April 11th 2027 - April 18th 2027

Application:

In order to apply, please send

- either a written motivation statement (max. 1 page) or a response in a video message. Tell us **why** you would like to be part of this year's project and how you connect to its **theme** and to **young audiences**.
- CV (max. 1 page)
- this signed application sheet

to:

- Applications from Austria to Anna Frizberg: a.frizberg@tao-graz.at
- Applications from Rhine-Main region to Sara Gröning: sara.groening@krfrm.de
- Applications from North Rhine-Westphalia to Christiane Müller-Rosen: kontakt@westwind-festival.de
- Applications from Belgium to Pascal Buyse: pascal@bronks.be
- Applications from Croatia to Marija Androić: medijacija@vrum.hr

With my signature I confirm to be fully available and take part in all three residencies and their programme.

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

Date, Place

Signature